

**SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PERMITTING  
OPEN ACCESS TO DATA OBJECTS AND  
FOR SECURING DATA WITHIN THE DATA OBJECTS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A system and methods for permitting open access to data objects and  
for securing data within the data objects is disclosed.. According to one  
embodiment of the present invention, a method for securing a data object is  
disclosed. According to one embodiment of the present invention, a method for  
securing a data object is disclosed. The method includes the steps of (1) providing a  
10   data object comprising digital data and file format information; (2) embedding  
independent data into a data object; and (3) scrambling the data object to degrade the  
data object to a predetermined signal quality level. The steps of embedding and  
scrambling may be performed until a predetermined condition is met. The method  
may also include the steps of descrambling the data object to upgrade the data object  
15   to a predetermined signal quality level, and decoding the embedded independent  
data. The additional steps of descrambling and decoding may be performed until a  
predetermined condition is met. The predetermined condition may include, for  
example, reaching a desired signal quality of the data object.

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